

WHAT IS Early Intervention?

Early Intervention (EI) in Massachusetts is a statewide, integrated, developmental service available to families of children between birth and three years of age. Children may be eligible for EI if they have developmental difficulties due to identified disabilities, or if development is at risk due to certain birth or environmental circumstances.

EI provides family-centered services that facilitate the developmental progress of eligible children. EI helps children acquire the skills they will need to continue to grow into happy and healthy members of the community.

What should I do next?

- Call the **Central Directory for Early Intervention** at **1-800-905-8437**, or visit **www.massfamilyties.org** for a listing of certified Early Intervention programs serving your city or town.
- Call and speak with a local EI program to make a referral.



Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Early Intervention Services

250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention

Call: (617) 624-6060
TTY: (617) 624-5992



Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Early Intervention Services
www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention

Who is eligible for EI?

Any Massachusetts child up to three years of age and his/her family may be eligible for EI services if the child:

- Is **not reaching age-appropriate milestones** in one or more areas of development.
- Is **diagnosed** with a physical, emotional or cognitive condition that may result in a developmental delay.
- Is **at risk** for developmental delay due to various biological and/or environmental factors.

How can a child and family become involved with EI?

The process is simple. Anyone (a parent, doctor, care giver, teacher or friend) can call 1-800-905-8437 and ask for a listing of certified Early Intervention programs serving a particular city or town. Early Intervention services do not require a prescription. Referrals are made directly to a certified program.

What happens after a referral?

With parental consent, an EI team will conduct an evaluation with the child and family to determine eligibility. This evaluation will focus on specific areas of child development, including areas related to cognitive, language, motor, social, emotional, behavioral and self-help skills.

If the child is eligible, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is written based on the individual needs of the child and family. The IFSP meeting occurs within 45 days of referral.

Who provides EI services?

Services are provided by a professional and dedicated EI team, which includes the child's family. Depending on the child's needs, an EI team may also include a developmental specialist, physical therapist, speech-language pathologist, psychologist, occupational therapist, social worker, nurse and other specialty service providers.



Where and how are services provided?

An EI team serves the child and family in what are called “natural settings” – for example, at home, childcare centers, community play groups or libraries. Providing services in natural settings supports children in their everyday activities with family and friends.

Who pays for EI?

- Most health insurances pay for some or all of the cost of services if you give consent to have your insurance billed.
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health pays for any costs not covered by insurance, including co-payments and deductibles.

